

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 13 have been amended. Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE

The title was objected to as not descriptive. Appropriate correction has been made to the title. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 13-18 were objected to because claim 13 depends on itself and claims 14-18 are dependent on claim 13. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 13. Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimura et al. (US 6,295,569) (hereinafter “Shimura”).

Shimura discloses a storage apparatus. Figures 20A and 20B of Shimura show circuit block diagrams of a controller and an enclosure that are provided for the drive main body 12 shown in Figure 1. The optical disk drive of Shimura includes a controller 210 and an enclosure 212. The controller 210 has: an MPU 214 for performing a whole control of the optical disk drive; an ATA interface controller 216 for transmitting and receiving commands and data to/from an upper apparatus; a formatter 218 for performing processes which are necessary to write and read data to/from the medium; and a buffer memory 220. Shimura 13:38-13:48.

Claims 1 and 2

Claim 1 recites: “...a control board to control the driving unit, which is installed at an interface device of the computer, separate from the driving unit, and connected to the connection board.” In contrast to claim 1, Shimura discloses that the controller 210 is provided in the main drive body 12 that also includes the driver. Claim 1 recites that the control board is separate from the driving unit.

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 4-10 and 12

Independent claims 4 and 12 recite: "...a controller to control the driving unit having an interface to connect to the computer, wherein the controller is located remotely from the driving unit." In contrast to claims 4 and 12, Shimura discloses that the controller 210 is provided in the main drive body 12 that also includes the driver. Claims 4 and 12 recite that the controller is located remotely from the driving unit.

Claims 5-10 are dependent on claim 4 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimura in view of Liu et al. (US 6,502,755) (hereinafter "Liu").

Liu discusses an optical data storage card including an optical data storage layer supported on the card and a plurality of data storage tracks for storing data therein. Liu, Abstract.

Claims 3 and 11 are dependent on claims 1 and 4, respectively and are therefore believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. Further, claims 3 and 11 patentably distinguish over Shimura and Liu, taken alone or in combination. For example, claim 3 recites that the interface device is a USB port.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Oct 4, 2005

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